

News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Headquarters
51 East 4th Street, Room 101
Winona, MN 55987

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Cindy Samples 507 494 6216

Mayfly Watcher Workshop

You are invited to a Mayfly Watcher Workshop for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Refuge), Winona, MN. Learn how to actively contribute to science by observing and recording data through a program called Nature's Notebook (www.nn.usanpn.org). The Workshop is June 16, 2015 at First Congregational Church, 161 West Broadway, Winona, MN from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The workshop will teach you everything you need to know about becoming a successful Citizen Scientist, how to use Nature's Notebook, and how to identify emerging mayflies. This workshop is free and intended for all age groups. We are seeking volunteer observers along the Mississippi River to track the timing of the yearly mayfly emergence which can be an extraordinary event! Large emergences can number in the millions - enough to be picked up by weather radar. Mayflies are an important food source for fish, especially during the summer emergence but also throughout the year when they are in their larval form.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fisheries Biologist Mark Steingraeber will provide mayfly identification tips and Refuge Ranger Cindy Samples will demonstrate how to record data on a paper sheet and a smartphone using the Nature's Notebook app.

-FWS-

In addition to being the most visited refuge in the country, the "Upper Miss" Refuge has the added complexity of a major navigation system, including 11 locks and dams, within its boundary. It is also a world-class fish and wildlife area which harbors 306 species of birds; 119 species of fish; more than 200 active bald eagle nests; thousands of heron and egret nests; spectacular concentrations of canvasback ducks, tundra swans, and white pelicans; and several threatened or endangered species.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.